

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE14/005) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Bilyk (L&CA 22) asked:

Senator BILYK: With the English-language component, is that the standard English-language test that applies elsewhere?

Mr Ingram: There are a number of categories. If people go through education within Australia or a number of specified English-language speaking countries, they are exempt from having to demonstrate that English-language competency. In effect, everybody has to meet an English-language competency.

Senator BILYK: Can you explain to me the first part of that statement—if they go through an English-language test in another country—

Mr Ingram: No, it is—

Senator BILYK: Sorry, I was not clear on what you said.

Mr Ingram: In broad terms, if they have done their education—largely their secondary, primary and tertiary education within Australia; I can spell this out in some detail and perhaps I can take that on notice and give you the precise detail—that is a demonstration of their English-language capability. If they have done a large part of their education in a number of specified countries where English is the primary language, that is also taken to be a demonstration of their English-language capability. If they do not meet that, the test that I think you were alluding to at the beginning of your question would be the English-language test that is similar to those used in visa processing, such as ILS.

*Answer:*

On 1 July 2012, the then Government made it a legislative requirement for all applicants seeking initial registration as a migration agent to meet the specified English language requirement.

Prescribed categories of persons are exempt from having to provide the prescribed test results attesting to their English language capability. These categories are:

1. Where a person can provide evidence that they have undertaken at least ten years of primary and/or secondary schooling in either Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada, the United Kingdom, South Africa or the United States;
2. Where a person can provide evidence that they have undertaken at least four years secondary school studies, including the equivalent of Australian Year 12 and a Bachelor degree with at least three years study in either Australia,

New Zealand, Ireland, Canada, the United Kingdom, South Africa or the United States;

3. Where a person holds a legal practising certificate issued by an Australian body authorised to issue it.

Where a person cannot demonstrate that they meet any of the criteria of these exempt categories, they are required to undertake an English language test with the following results:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 7.0 with a minimum score of 6.5 in each subtest (speaking, listening, reading and writing) in the academic module, and undertaken not more than two years before making an initial registration application

or

- Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (IBT) score of 100 with a minimum score of 22 in each subtest (speaking, listening, reading and writing), and undertaken not more than two years before making an initial registration application